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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

An Article of Furniture Convertible for Use as a Bed.

I, LESLIE WOOLLCOTT, a British Subject, of 24 Barbourne Road, Worcester, Worcestershire, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to an article of furniture convertible for use as a bed, and has for its object to afford rapid and easy conversion of the article from one form in which it has the general characteristics of a self-contained casing or cabinet capable of housing bedding prepared for use, to another form in which parts of said article previously serving to form a casing are in opened-out positions for use of the article as a bed, and to convert the article back to the casing form with equal facility. In a preferred embodiment of the invention an object is to provide an article capable of use in one position as a dining or like table for use by seated persons, the article being so constructed that in such position it presents the required casing to contain the bedding. Thus, in this embodiment of the invention, the article can be rapidly converted from a table into a bed and vice versa. A further object is to provide an article having the aforesaid characteristics which is capable of low-cost production and which will enable the purchaser to equip a living or reception room with an article convertible into a bed, without incurring the expense ordinarily involved when installing a bed-settee.

According to the invention, an article of furniture incorporates a pair of channel-like casing sections adapted to assume upstanding mutually-opposed positions to form a vertically-divided casing, said sections being adapted also to assume laid-down aligned positions, each at right angles to its said upstanding position, and in which each section

presents a channel, the bases of said channel serving as portions of a horizontal surface for supporting bedding thereon, the outer end of one or each channel being blanked off by a part which, in the casing positions of the sections, is at or constitutes the top of the casing or a part thereof.

Conveniently the casing sections may be mounted on a base element having a part which, when the said sections are in their laid-down positions, forms an intermediate portion of the said horizontal surface for supporting bedding, namely, a portion situated between the sections, the said sections being connected to said base. For their mounting upon said base element, the said casing sections may be hingedly or pivotally carried thereby. Conveniently said sections may be hingedly attached to said base at spaced-apart positions, the hinges being on the channel bases of the sections so that said sections can be swung about said hinges to bring them from their upstanding positions to their laid-down positions and vice versa.

In applying the invention to a convertible table one or each casing section may carry a panel which, in the casing positions of the sections, overhangs the composite casing and thereby serves as a table top having a projecting marginal portion, or overhangs the associated section to constitute a part of a table top having this form. This will afford some accommodation beneath said table top for persons sitting at the table, and when the article is in position for use as a bed the said projection will serve as a supporting leg for the associated section. To accommodate the feet of persons sitting at the table the base element may be supported by foot pieces, castors or the like above floor level and/or it may be constructed to provide a peripheral recess at the bottom. It will be understood that in this embodiment of the invention there is provided a dining or like table which can be instantly converted for

use as a bed by swinging down the two casing sections.

Conveniently, one of the casing sections may carry a panel serving, in the erected positions of the sections, as a complete one-piece table top which also covers the other casing section; this panel will serve effectively as a head-board for the bed. The other section may be blanked off by a smaller panel adapted to pass beneath the said larger panel of the first section when the two sections are erected. Thus the head of the bed will be blanked off at its outer end by the larger panel or head-board, and the foot of the bed will be blanked off by the smaller panel. These panels in conjunction with the walls of the channel sections will afford good protection from draughts.

An article of furniture according to a convenient embodiment of the invention, and which is in the form of a table convertible into a bed, will now be described, and is shown in the accompanying drawings, wherein:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of the article in open position for use as a bed;

Figure 2 is a side elevation of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the article in its closed position for use as a table; and

Figure 4 is a side elevation of Figure 3.

The article shown comprises a rectangular base element 1 for standing upon the floor and a pair of casing sections 2 carried by said base element 1. Each of said sections 2 is of channel form, its channel base being hingedly connected at one edge to one edge of the base element 1. The sections are thus carried at mutually-opposite edges of the base element, the hinges being denoted by reference 3. The disposition of the sections 2 is such that when said sections are in erect positions they will stand upon the base element 1, and their edges 4 will come together so as to form a composite casing. In this erected position of the sections (Figures 3 and 4) the article is intended to serve as a table and accordingly one of the sections 2 rigidly carries a panel 5 which constitutes a table top, said panel being of such a size and shape that it overhangs the said composite casing around the entire boundary thereof. By said panel thus projecting, some accommodation will be afforded beneath same for the legs of seated persons. The panel 5 is secured to the associated section 2 against the free outer edge thereof and therefore blanks off said section at each edge.

By lowering the two sections 2, said sections take up spaced-apart aligned positions, (see Figures 1 and 2), the channel bases of said sections serving as end portions of a supporting surface for a mattress, the re-

maining intermediate portion of said surface being constituted by the base element 1. Thus the article becomes converted into a bed. The sections 2 are supported in horizontal positions, in one case by reason of the projecting part of panel 5 coming into contact with the floor, and in the other case by reason of the projecting portion of a panel 6 likewise coming to rest on the floor. This panel 6 blanks off the outer end of the associated section 2. In the closed position of the article this panel 6 takes up a position beneath the panel 5 of the other section as shown in Figure 4. If so desired, the section 2 which carries the panel 5 may be provided with a layer 7 beneath a portion of said panel, said layer appearing as the equivalent of the panel 6 to preserve conformity as to the thickness and appearance of the table top at its two ends.

In converting the article from the open position to the closed position, the mattress 8 will be caused to flex in correspondence with the upward swinging of the sections 2, and therefore will take up the position shown in dotted lines in Figure 4. In this connection a particular advantage presented by the invention is that if the bed clothes are arranged ready for use prior to erecting the sections to bring the article into its table or cabinet-forming position, said clothes will flex to permit such erecting of the sections and will subsequently become restored to the flat position when the article is converted into a bed; they will have suffered no disturbance although having flexed, and accordingly a properly made bed will be presented ready for immediate use.

To guard against possible lateral displacement of the centre portion of the mattress when the article is being used as a bed, and to improve the appearance, there may be provided strips 9 which upstand from the base element 1 to serve as retaining walls. Or, if it is desired to close the spaces which exist between the sections 2, there may be provided for this purpose auxiliary panels which are slidably, hingedly or otherwise carried by the sections 2 or base element 1.

The section 2 which constitutes the head of the bed may be provided with shelf pieces 10 hingedly mounted on the walls of said section so that each of said pieces can be brought to a position for use projecting externally as shown on the left-hand side of Figure 1, or to a stowed position as shown on the right-hand side of that Figure.

It will be understood from the above description that the article as shown can be instantly converted from a table into a bed, having the bed clothes arranged ready for use. Conversion back to the table position can be likewise instantly effected. To afford accommodation for the feet of seated persons the base member 1 may have a lower

portion constructed to provide a peripheral recess 11. Said base member preferably is fitted with castors as shown.

What I claim is:—

- 5 1. An article of furniture incorporating a pair of channel-like casing sections adapted to assume upstanding mutually-opposed positions to form a vertically-divided casing, said sections being adapted also to assume
10 laid-down aligned positions, each at right angles to its said upstanding position, and in which each section presents a channel, the bases of said channel serving as portions
15 of a horizontal surface for supporting bedding thereon, the outer end of one or each channel being blanked off by a part which, in the casing positions of the sections, is at or constitutes the top of the casing or a part thereof.
- 20 2. An article of furniture according to Claim 1, wherein the casing sections are mounted on a base element having a part which, when the said sections are in their laid-down positions, forms an intermediate
25 portion of the said horizontal surface for supporting bedding, namely, a portion situated between the sections, the said sections being connected to said base.
- 30 3. An article of furniture according to Claim 2, wherein the casing sections are hingedly carried by the base element.
4. An article of furniture according to Claim 3, wherein the sections are hingedly attached to the base element at spaced-apart
35 positions, the hinges being on the channel bases of the sections so that said sections can be swung about said hinges to bring them from their upstanding positions to their laid-down positions and vice versa.
- 40 5. An article of furniture according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein one or each of the casing sections carries a panel which, in the casing positions of the

sections, overhangs the composite casing and thereby serves as a table top having a projecting marginal portion, or overhangs the associated section to constitute a part of a table top having this form.

6. An article of furniture according to any of Claims 2 to 5, wherein the base element is constructed to provide a peripheral recess at the bottom.

7. An article of furniture according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a panel carried by one of the casing sections for blanking off said section serves, in the erected positions of the sections, as a complete one-piece table top which also covers the other casing section.

8. An article of furniture according to Claim 7, wherein the other section is blanked off by a smaller panel arranged to pass beneath the said larger panel of the first section when the two sections are erected.

9. An article of furniture according to any of the preceding claims, wherein one or each of the channel walls of one of the casing sections carries a shelf piece so mounted that it can be brought to a position projecting outwards horizontally from the outer edge of said wall.

10. An article of furniture according to Claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein side pieces or cheeks are provided for preventing lateral mattress displacement in the spaces between the lowered casing sections or for closing said spaces.

11. An article of furniture substantially as herein described, and as shown in the accompanying drawings.

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

An Article of Furniture Convertible for Use as a Bed.

I, LESLIE WOOLLCOTT, a British Subject, of 24 Barbourne Road, Worcester, Worcestershire, do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following
85 statement:—

This invention relates to an article of furniture convertible for use as a bed and has for its object to afford rapid and easy conversion of the article from one form in
90 which it has the general characteristics of a self-contained casing or cabinet capable of housing bedding prepared for use, to another form in which parts of said article previously serving to form a casing are in
95 opened-out positions for use of the article

as a bed, and to convert the article back to the casing form with equal facility. In a preferred embodiment of the invention an object is to provide an article capable of use in one position as a dining or like table
100 for use by seated persons, the article being so constructed that in such position it presents the required casing to contain the bedding. Thus in this embodiment of the invention the article can be rapidly converted from a table
105 into a bed and vice versa. A further object is to provide an article having the aforesaid characteristics which is capable of low-cost production and which will enable the purchaser to equip a living or reception
110 room with an article convertible into a bed,

without incurring the expense ordinarily involved when installing a bed-settee.

According to the invention a self-contained article of furniture incorporates a pair of channel-like casing sections adapted to assume upstanding mutually-opposed positions to form a vertically-divided casing, said sections being adapted also to assume laid-down aligned positions, each at right angles to its said upstanding position, and in which each section presents a channel, the bases of said channel serving as portions of a horizontal surface for supporting bedding thereon, the outer end of one or each channel being blanked off by a part which, in the casing position of the sections, is at or constitutes the top of the casing or a part thereof.

Conveniently the casing sections may be mounted on a base which, when the said sections are in their laid-down positions, forms a portion of the said horizontal surface for supporting bedding, namely a portion situated between and connected to the portions provided by said sections. For their mounting upon said base, the said casing sections may be hingedly attached to said base at spaced-apart positions, the hinges being on the channel bases of the sections so that said sections can be swung about said hinges to bring them from their upstanding positions to their laid-down positions and vice versa.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention one or each casing section carries a panel which, in the casing positions of the sections, overhangs the composite casing and serves as a table top having a projecting marginal portion, or a part of a table top having this form. This will afford some accommodation beneath said table top for persons sitting at the table. To accommodate the feet of such persons the base may be supported by foot pieces, castors or the like above floor level or it may be constructed to provide a peripheral recess where resting upon the floor. It will be understood that in this preferred embodiment of the invention there is provided a dining or like table which can be instantly converted for use as a bed by swinging down the two casing sections. Conveniently one of these sections

may carry a panel serving, in the erected positions of the sections, as a complete one-piece table top projection around the casing structure; this panel will serve effectively as a head-board for the bed, in this case the other section can be blanked off by a smaller panel adapted to pass beneath the said larger panel of the first section when the two sections are erected, the larger panel presenting a suitable recess for accommodating the said smaller panel. Thus the head of the bed will be blanked off at its outer end by the larger panel or headboard and the foot of the bed will be blanked off by the smaller panel. These panels in conjunction with the walls of the channel sections will afford good protection from draughts. In the preferred construction the sections are hingedly mounted on the base at opposite edges thereof, the said base forming a centre section of the bed surface. If it is desired to close the side spaces between the sections, auxiliary panels may be provided which are slidably, hingedly or otherwise carried by the sections or base.

The walls of the section at the head of the bed may carry shelf pieces so mounted that when not in use they can be stowed in the interior of that section.

The channel sections can have square or rounded corners. The base will be suitably constructed to provide a surface level with the channel bases of the lowered sections.

A particular advantage presented by the invention is that if the bed clothes are arranged ready for use prior to erecting the sections to bring the article into its table or cabinet-forming position, said clothes will flex to permit such erecting of the sections and will subsequently become restored to the flat position when the article is converted into a bed; they will have suffered no disturbance although having flexed and accordingly a properly-made bed will be presented ready for immediate use.

Dated this 2nd day of April, 1953.

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